

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 IGA-01 L-02 EB-07 H-02 PRS-01 USIA-06

SP-02 /069 W

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P R 201953Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9841

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 1193

PASS AID/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EAID, HA

SUBJECT: GOH EXPLORES POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO COPE  
WITH DROUGHT

1. AT DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF STATE BRUTUS ON MAY 19 ASKED AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY AND AID OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH HIM AND KEY OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DISCUSS THE AGRICULTURAL/NUTRITIONAL SITUATION IN HAITI WHICH IS SERIOUSLY DETERIORATING BECAUSE OF PROLONGED DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE. MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS TO MAKE PLANS FOR COPING WITH SITUATION.

2. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE LEVEQUE OUTLINED THE SERIES OF CLIMATIC CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE LED TO PRESENT SITUATION. (A) BECAUSE OF LACK OF RAINFALL IN 1974, GOH LOST APPROXIMATELY ONE-FOURTH OF THE CORN CROP (CROP REDUCED FROM 250,000 TONS TO APPROXIMATELY 190,000 TONS), THUS REDUCING FOOD SUPPLIES. (B) WINTER RAINS IN NORTH (DUE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER) WERE SPARSE AND ALTHOUGH SOME FOOD CROPS WERE HARVESTED, PRODUCTION WAS VERY LOW. (C) SPRING RAINS WERE LATE IN MOST AREAS (LATE APRIL INSTEAD OF MARCH), AND QUANTITY IS STILL TO BE DETERMINED.

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3. AS A RESULT OF SITUATION, SEED IS SCARCE FOR CURRENT PLANTING (IT WAS EITHER LOST THROUGH PREMATURE PLANTING OR EATEN BY FARMERS). PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS HAVE TRIPLED IN WORST STRICKEN AREAS, AND INCREASES HAVE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. GOH IS NOW BEING FACED WITH INCREASING REPORTS OF MALNUTRITION, REQUESTS FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE AND REQUESTS FOR SEED. EVEN UNDER BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES (I.E. SUFFICIENT RAIN FOR NEXT CROP), IT WILL BE THREE MONTHS BEFORE NEW FOOD STOCKS ARE AVAILABLE

4. GOH AT PRESENT CONSIDERS THAT PROBLEM IN NORTHWEST MUST BE TACKLED FIRST, FOLLOWED UP BY ASSISTANCE IF NEEDED IN OTHER STRICKEN AREAS (PARTICULARLY THE NORTHERN PLAINS, CENTRAL PLATEAU AND THE SOUTH). AMBASSADOR REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION ON EXTENT OF PROBLEM AND AMOUNT OF FOOD AID NEEDED AS A PRE-LIMINARY TO DISCUSSING POSSIBLE U.S. AID. ACCORDINGLY, A FOLLOW-UP MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 21 WHEN GOH WILL COME UP WITH ESTIMATES ON THE AMOUNT OF FOOD NEEDED AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE SHORT-TERM PROBLEM WILL BE CANVASSED. POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE GOH COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, USE OF CCC CREDIT FACILITIES, INCREASED DONATIONS AND FEEDING PROGRAMS BY VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PERHAPS AN APPEAL FOR DISASTER RELIEF, OR A COMBINATION OF ALL OR PART OF THE ABOVE.

5. REPORTS FROM THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES OVER PAST TWO WEEKS INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION IS, IF ANYTHING, WORSE THAN THE GOH IS ADMITTING AT THE MOMENT. MALNUTRITION, PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTHWEST, IS VERY SERIOUS, AND SOME DEATHS HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED. THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE CONTINUING TO REQUEST REPORTS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT MEETING ON MAY 21.

6. COUNTRY TEAM COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE CABLED FOLLOWING THE WEDNESDAY MEETING.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DROUGHTS, FOOD ASSISTANCE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, EAID, HA, US  
**To:** STATE  
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